

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 23, 24, 29-32 and 53 are pending in the application, with Claim 24 being the only independent claim. Claim 24 has been amended herein. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Claims 23, 24, 29-32 and 53 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claims 1-32 of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,989 (Yano et al.); Claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,659,601 (Goto et al.); Claims 1-40 of U.S. Patent No. 6,517,199 (Tomioka et al.); Claims 1-37 of U.S. Patent No. 6,719,420 (Tomioka et al.); Claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,729,718 (Goto et al.); Claims 1-39 of U.S. Patent No. 6,821,328 (Tomioka et al.); and Claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,746,114 (Takahashi et al.). Applicants submit that none of the claims cited for the obviousness-type double patenting rejections teach or suggest the features of independent Claim 24. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Applicants note, however, that if the Examiner maintains these rejections, Applicants will consider filing a terminal disclaimer.

Claims 23, 24, 29-32 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,527,843 (Zaima et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as recited in Claim 24 is directed to an ink-jet imaged recording medium including a colored portion. The colored portion includes aggregates of

fine particles, each of the fine particles having a coloring material thereon by adsorption in a monomolecular state. The recording medium is a plain paper. The coloring material is anionic or cationic, and the fine particles have a polarity opposite to that of the coloring material. The colored portion is obtained by applying an ink containing the coloring material and a liquid composition containing the fine particles to the recording medium in such a manner that the ink and the liquid composition come in contact with each other in a liquid state. A ratio of the coloring material to the fine particles is larger in a peripheral portion of the image than in the remaining portion of the image.

In the present invention as defined in claim 24, the ratio of the coloring material to the fine particles is larger in a peripheral portion of the image than in the remaining portion of the image. Due to this constitution, the image on the recording medium can have a high optical density and occurrence of white stripes, which is a problem specific to an image forming process utilizing a reaction of two liquids as in the present invention, can be effectively eliminated. See page 8, line 17 through page 9, line 18, page 36, line 25 through page 40, line 6 and the examples.

In the Office Action, the Examiner took the position that the feature recited in Claim 24 that a ratio of the coloring material to the fine particles is larger in a peripheral portion of the image than in the remaining portion of the image is a natural consequence of the process of Zaima et al. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants note that the Examiner has not provided any evidence supporting such a position. Moreover, Applicant notes that Zaima et al. is directed to a one liquid system where fine particles originally adsorb a dye thereon in ink, not a two liquid system using an ink containing a coloring material and a liquid composition containing fine particles as in the present invention. In a

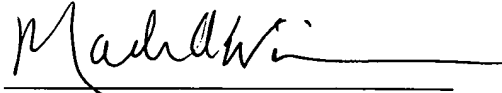
one liquid system it is quite difficult to differentiate the ratio of the coloring material and the fine particles depending on the position in the image, since the ratio is fixed before the ink reaches the paper. Thus, Applicants submit that a ratio of the coloring material to the fine particles being larger in a peripheral portion of the image than in the remaining portion of the image, as recited in Claim 24, is not a natural consequence of the process of Zaima et al. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Zaima et al. does not teach or suggest at least a ratio of the coloring material to the fine particles is larger in a peripheral portion of the image than in the remaining portion of the image. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under § 103 are requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 24. Dependent Claims 23, 29-32 and 53 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 24. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

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